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DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
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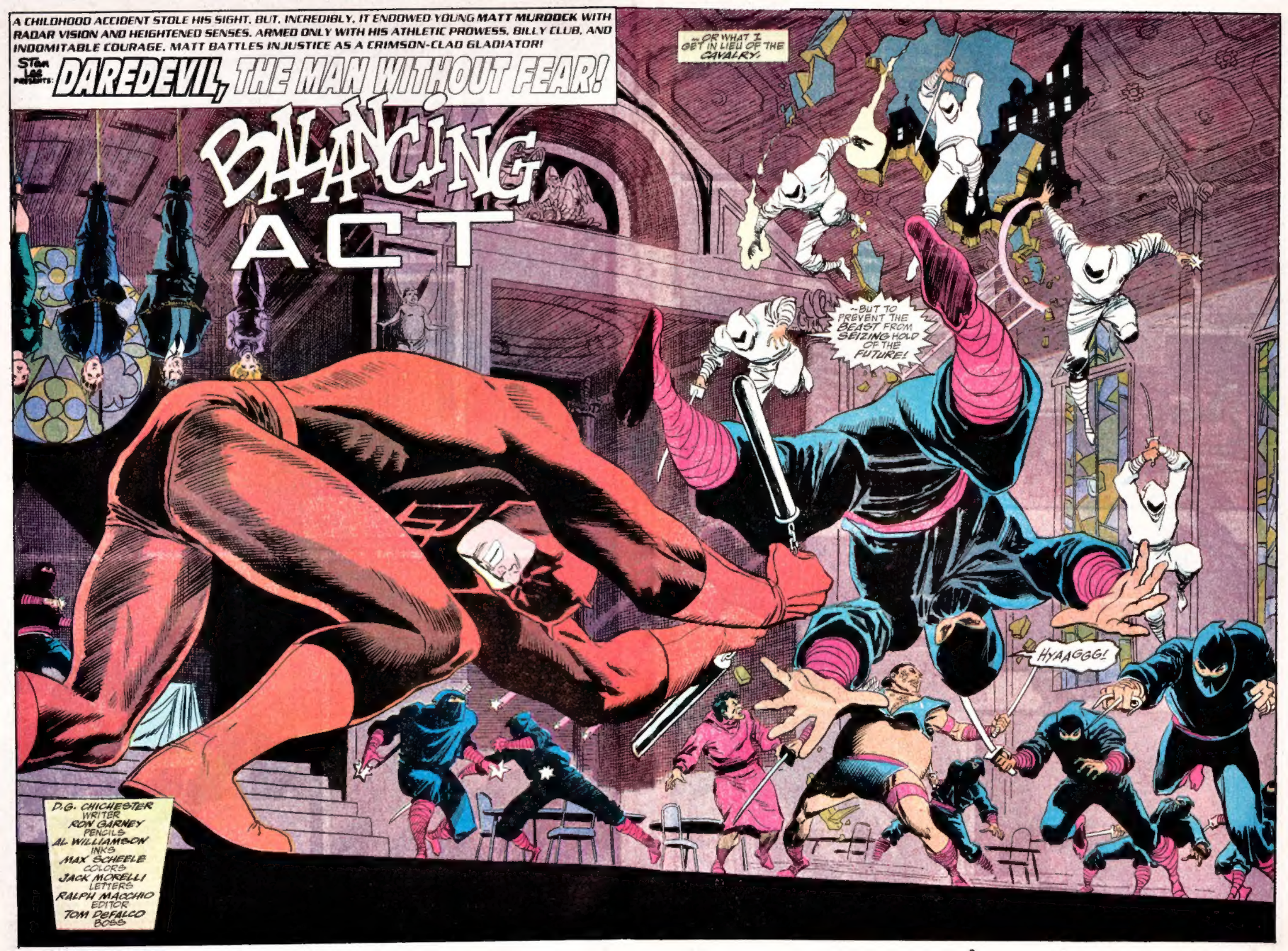
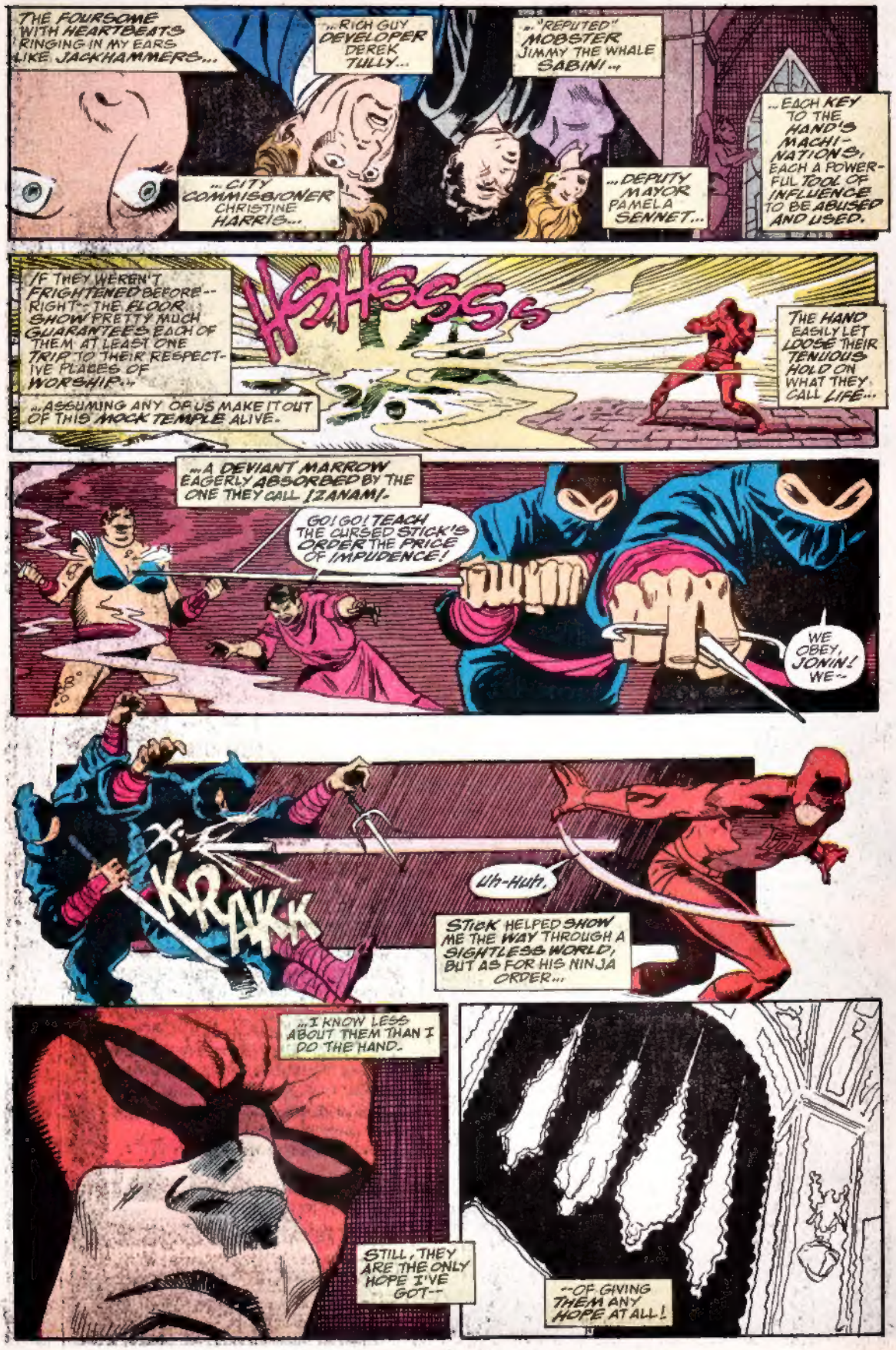
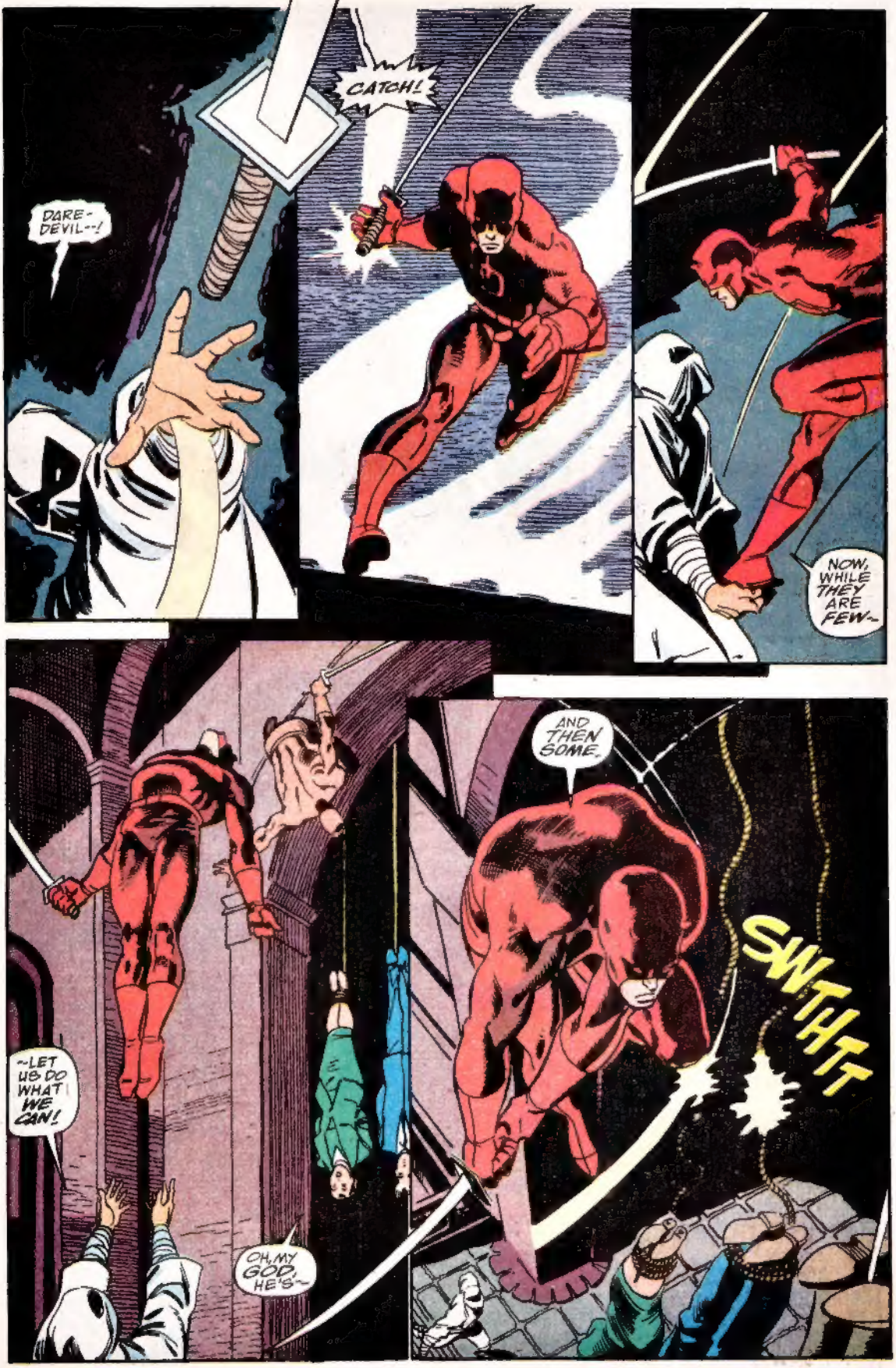
DAREDEVIL • **Vol. 1, No. 296, September, 1991.** (ISSN# 0279-8271) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published monthly. Copyright © 1991 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.00 per copy in the U.S. and $1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. $12.00, Canada $17.00, and foreign $24.00. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. DAREDEVIL (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO DAREDEVIL, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in the U.S.A.**


A CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT STOLE HIS SIGHT. BUT, INCREDIBLY, IT ENDOWED YOUNG MATT MURDOCK WITH RADAR VISION AND HEIGHTENED SENSES. ARMED ONLY WITH HIS ATHLETIC PROWESS, BILLY CLUB, AND INDOMITABLE COURAGE, MATT BATTLES INJUSTICE AS A CRIMSON-CLAD GLADIATOR!
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
BALANCING ACT
--OR WHAT I GET IN LIEU OF THE CAVALRY.
--BUT TO PREVENT THE BEAST FROM SEIZING HOLD OF THE FUTURE!
HYAAGGG!
D.G. CHICHESTER WRITER
RON GARNEY PENCILS
AL WILLIAMSON INKS
MAX SCHEELE COLORS
JACK MORELLI LETTERS
RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO BOSS


THE FOURSOME WITH HEARTBEATS RINGING IN MY EARS LIKE JACKHAMMERS...
...RICH GUY DEVELOPER DEREK TULLY...
..."REPUTED" MOBSTER JIMMY THE WHALE SABINI...
...CITY COMMISSIONER CHRISTINE HARRIS...
...DEPUTY MAYOR PAMELA SENNET...
...EACH KEY TO THE HAND'S MACHINATIONS, EACH A POWERFUL TOOL OF INFLUENCE TO BE ABUSED AND USED.
IF THEY WEREN'T FRIGHTENED BEFORE--RIGHT--THE FLOOR SHOW PRETTY MUCH GUARANTEES EACH OF THEM AT LEAST ONE TRIP TO THEIR RESPECTIVE PLACES OF WORSHIP.
...ASSUMING ANY OF US MAKE IT OUT OF THIS MOCK TEMPLE ALIVE.
HSHSSSS
THE HAND EASILY LET LOOSE THEIR TENUOUS HOLD ON WHAT THEY CALL LIFE...
...A DEVIANT MARROW EAGERLY ABSORBED BY THE ONE THEY CALL IZANAMI.
GO! GO! TEACH THE CURSED STICK'S ORDER THE PRICE OF IMPUDENCE!
WE OBEY, JONIN! WE--
KRAKK
Uh-Huh.
STICK HELPED SHOW ME THE WAY THROUGH A SIGHTLESS WORLD, BUT AS FOR HIS NINJA ORDER...
...I KNOW LESS ABOUT THEM THAN I DO THE HAND.
STILL, THEY ARE THE ONLY HOPE I'VE GOT--
--OF GIVING THEM ANY HOPE AT ALL!

STICK'S ORDER--RUMORED DEAD BY THE VERY KILLERS THEY NOW BATTLE.
HARSH WORDS ONLY SNARLED OUT BY STICK, EPITHETS OF ETERNAL FRUSTRATION, DISCONTENT.
BRUTAL NAMES FROM A HIDDEN PAST CRIED OUT BY ELEKTRA, SUDDENLY AWAKE IN THE BED BESIDE ME.
KLKLAK
STAR--
THWKKKT
HNNG!
HSSS
SWIK'N'K
FLAME--
THERE IS NO FUTURE IN THE DARKNESS OF YOUR GOD, BROTHERS. COME...
...LET ME SHOW YOU THE LIGHT!
EAEEE

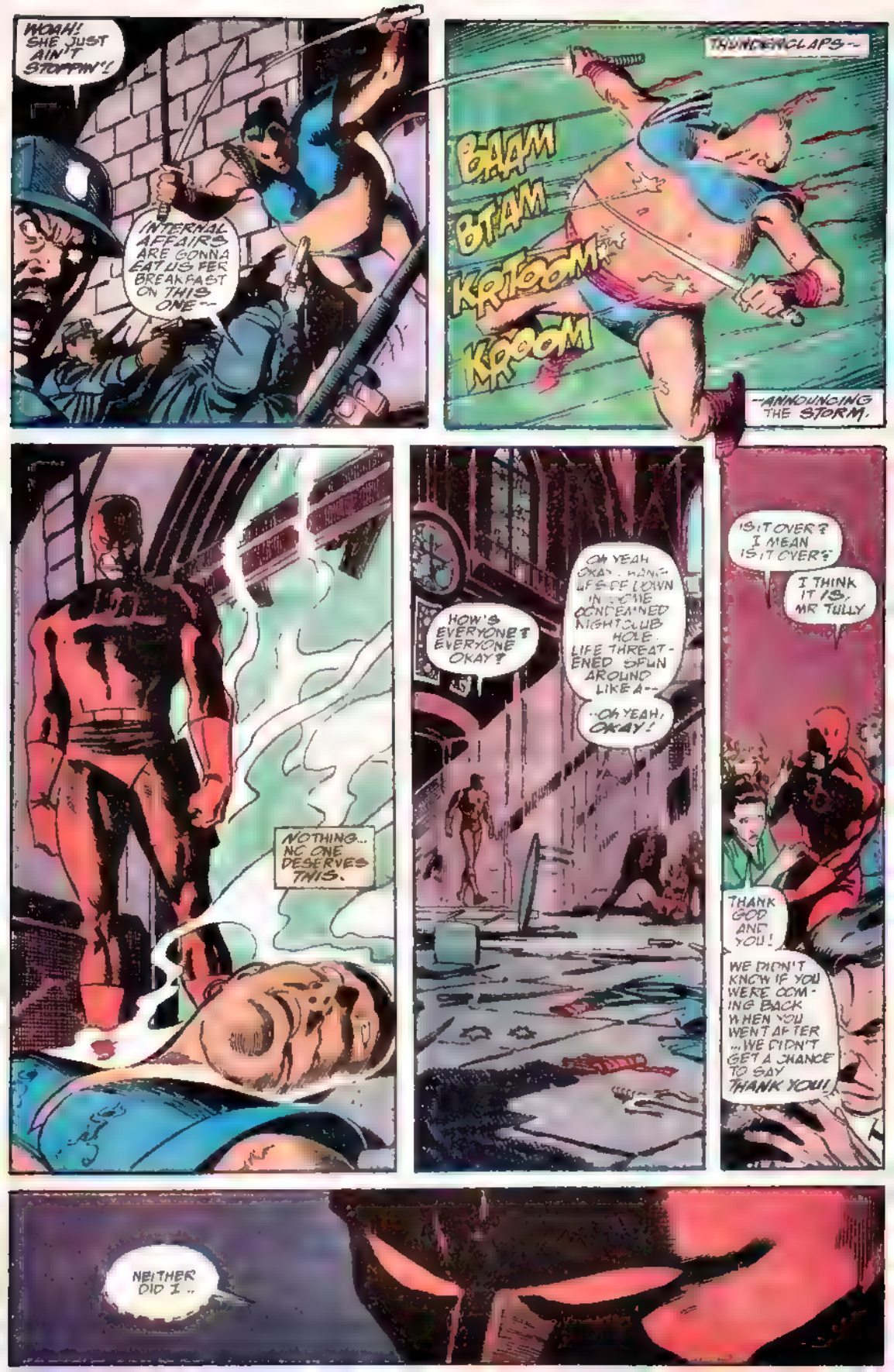
WING~
WHHSH
UP HERE.
H-HOW--?
IT'S A SECRET, DARK SERVANT~
GAAA!
--OF AN ETERNAL NATURE...
AIEGG
SPEAR--
SLTHHT
--I'M GUESSING HERE, AS I NEVER HEARD MENTION OF THIS ONE.
DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO FIGURE IT MAKES SENSE, THOUGH.
AND FINALLY, STONE...
MIGHTY STONE.
TWKNG
uhh...
YIEEE!
SWAP


DARE-DEVIL--!
CATCH!
NOW, WHILE THEY ARE FEW--
~LET US DO WHAT WE CAN!
OH, MY GOD, HE'S~
AND THEN SOME.
SWTHTT

FOR THIS I CAME BACK FROM ATLANTIC CITY--UGH!
HE HAD A SWORD, HE HAD A SWORD, AND HE--
HEY! HEY, YOU WATCH IT! I GOT FRIENDS, I DESERVE BETTER THAN THIS, YOU CAN'T TREAT ME THIS--!
D-DARE-DEVIL?
RIGHT HERE, MS. SENNET.
HEY, WHAT ABOUT ME? I GOT FRIENDS, CONNECTIONS, YOU CAN'T--
STAY CLOSE.
D-DON'T WORRY!
HEY, WHADDA YOU DOIN' UP THERE YOU HORNHEADED PIECE A--YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HANGIN' HERE, YOU BETTER NOT LEAVE--
HEY, WHO'D YOU THINK YOU GOT YOUR HANDS ON, ANYWAY?! I'M JIMMY SABIN, I GOT CONNECTIONS, YOU WATCH HOW YOU'RE--
--WATCH THOSE HANDS, PAL! WATCH.

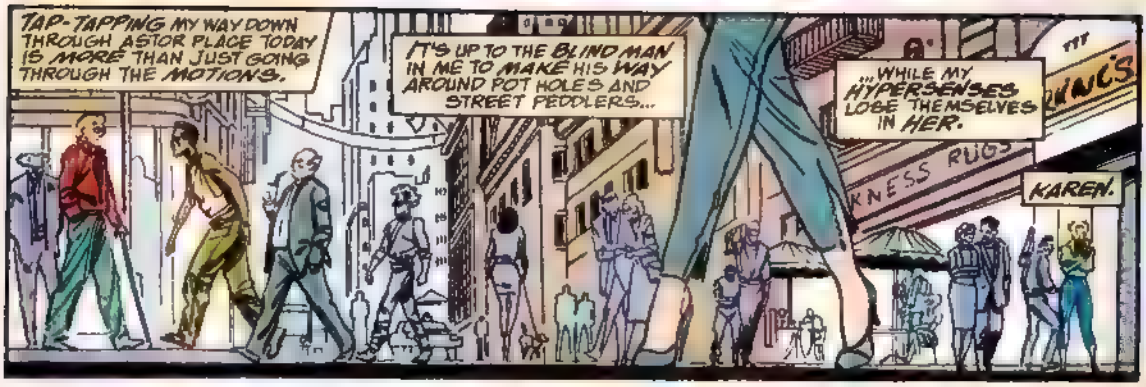
JONIN--OUR NUMBER-- THEY--
DO NOT MOURN SWEET IZANAMI. IF THE HAND LOOSENS, IT IS ONLY SO THAT OUR GRIP MAY BE MUCH STRONGER THE NEXT TIME!
IT IS ONLY THE INFERNAL MAJESTY OF THE BEAST THAT IS TRULY IMPORTANT.
T-THAT WE MUST FOREVER ASPIRE TO... YOU KNOW--YOU KNOW-- WHAT MUST BE--!
TELL HIM... TELL HIM I WAS WORTHY OF OUR BEAST --AND HIS.
YES.
THWOKK
I KNOW... IN HERE, WE ALL KNOW...
SPEAR-- DON'T LET HER--
DAREDEVIL-- SPEAR IS NEW TO OUR WAYS, HE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO-- PLEASE HELP HIM!
THE YOUNG BLOOD HANDLES HIMSELF WELL--

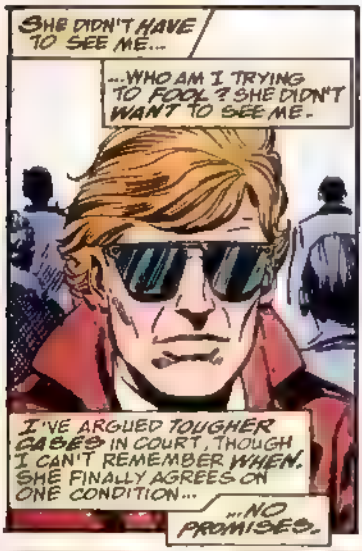
--BUT HE'S JUST NO MATCH.
SKRAK
HE RECOVERS WELL, THOUGH, HIS HEARTBEAT CALMER THAN I WOULD'VE THOUGHT SO SOON AFTER...
SUDDENLY, FROM BEYOND THE DOOR--THE JAGGED CLICKS OF GUNHAMMERS BEING COCKED, A RAPID RHYTHM OF MINIATURE THUNDERCLAPS.
IZANAMI, WAIT! DON'T--
WHY, DARE-DEVIL! YOU DO CARE!
SUCH AFFECTION WILL NOT GO... UNREWARDED!
I KNEW YOU WERE WORTH MY ATTENTION!
KRAAAMM
WHOA! WHADDA WE GOT HERE?!
MOTHER--
"ROSEANNE MEETS GODZILLA"!
ALL RIGHT, LADY, JUST LAY THE BLADES DOWN, AND NO ONE GETS--

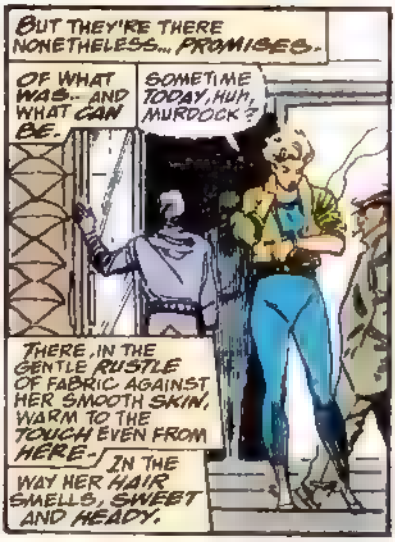

WOAH! SHE JUST AIN'T STOPPIN'!
INTERNAL AFFAIRS ARE GONNA EAT US FER BREAKFAST ON THIS ONE--
THUNDERCLAPS--
BAAM
BTAM
KRTOOM
KROOM
--ANNOUNCING THE STORM.
NOTHING... NO ONE DESERVES THIS.
HOW'S EVERYONE? EVERYONE OKAY?
OH YEAH OKAY. HANG-UPSIDE DOWN IN SOME CONDEMNED NIGHTCLUB HOLE. LIFE THREATENED SPUN AROUND LIKE A--
--OH YEAH, OKAY!
IS IT OVER? I MEAN IS IT OVER?
I THINK IT IS, MR TULLY
THANK GOD AND YOU!
WE DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU WERE COMING BACK WHEN YOU WENT AFTER ...WE DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO SAY THANK YOU!
NEITHER DID I..

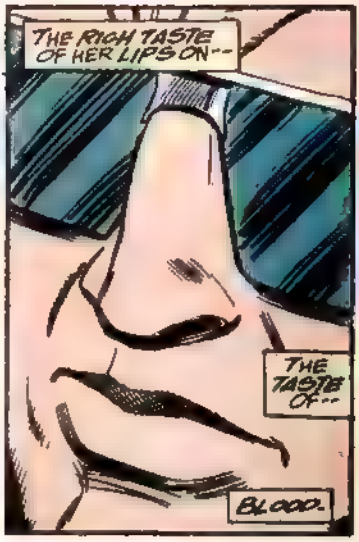
NOW LOOK, MR. FISK, I'M THE LAST ONE'S GONNA TELL YOU HOW TO RUN YOUR BUSINESS, BUT FAIR'S FAIR!
I PAY PROTECTION, Y'KNOW? YOU GET YOUR CUT AN' I'M SUPPOSED TO GET COVERED, AIN'T THAT THE WAY? FALL UNDER THE KINGPIN'S UMBRELLA, SO T'SPEAK?
SO WHY DO I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS BALONEY HUH? FOR WHAT? I MEAN, SOME UPSTART NO NAME WANTS TO MUSCLE IN, AND I GOTTA GET SHOOK DOWN BY THEIR NINJA TURTLES?! I NEAR WENT AN'--
POINT IS, I'M JIMMY SABINI!
YOU'VE VOCALIZED THE ISSUE MOST EMPHATICALLY, MR. SABINI, BUT AS IS SO OFTEN THE CASE, IN MEN OF LIMITED POTENTIAL, YOU'VE MISSED THE LARGER PICTURE!
THE MAJORITY CONTROL OF MATTERS LEGAL AND EXTRA-LEGAL IN THE FIVE BOROUGHS RESTS FIRMLY IN MY HANDS-- I AM THE FORCE THAT GIVES LIFE TO THE CITY OF NEW YORK!
WHY WOULD ANY ORGANIZATION SEEKING TO ESTABLISH ITSELF HERE, ATTEMPT SUBVERSION THRU LOWER ELEMENTS LIKE YOURSELF, AND NOT THROUGH THIS OFFICE DIRECTLY?
FISK
ENTERTAINMENT
WFET
WFET
UNLESS OF COURSE, THE INDIVIDUALS SEEKING POWER HAD COME UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY ALREADY EXERCISED A DEGREE OF CONTROL AT THIS LEVEL..
THIS DEMANDS FURTHER ATTENTION, MALTESE-- CONVENE A--
WAIT A-- WAIT A MINUTE-- HOW'D THIS GET TO BE ABOUT YOU?!
I'M THE ONE WAS STRUNG UP LIKE SOMETHING AT THE MEAT MARKET, BUNCHA' KUNG FU CLOWNS TALKIN' ABOUT FEEDING ME TO THEIR "BEAST"!
THAM
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF MAKIN' IT'S YOU WHO GOT BIT ON YOUR FAT--

OH, MR-MR. FISK, I WAS JUST... I MEAN, IT WAS..I HAD A BAD TIME A IT, Y'KNOW, SO I--I--
PLEASE, MR. FISK, I GOT A WIFE AN'.. I'M SORRY! I'LL DO--
MR SABINI WOULD SEEM TO BE IN A MOOD TO LET OFF SOME HOT AIR, MALTESE!
SADLY, UNLIKE HIS NAMESAKE, "THE WHALE," MR SABINI LACKS A BLOW HOLE OF HIS OWN THROUGH WHICH TO EXPEL THAT HOT AIR.
NO--NO! NOT MY--
PLEASE HELP MR. SABINI REMEDY THAT CONDITION, MALTESE.
GET AWAY GET AWAY FROM THERE LEMME GO LEMME--
ANYTHING! I SWEAR, I'LL BE GOOD, I'LL BE--
YEEAARGG!
CONVENE THE FRINCIPAL ASSOCIATES TO LOOK INTO THIS AFFAIR. PUT THE WORD ON THE STREET, SEE WHAT WE HEAR BACK
OH, YES-- AND ORDER A NEW CARPET.


TAP-TAPPING MY WAY DOWN THROUGH ASTOR PLACE TODAY IS MORE THAN JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS.
IT'S UP TO THE BLIND MAN IN ME TO MAKE HIS WAY AROUND POT HOLES AND STREET PEDDLERS...
...WHILE MY HYPERSENSES LOSE THEMSELVES IN HER.
KAREN.


SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO SEE ME...
...WHO AM I TRYING TO FOOL? SHE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ME.
I'VE ARGUED TOUGHER CASES IN COURT, THOUGH I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN. SHE FINALLY AGREES ON ONE CONDITION...
...NO PROMISES.


BUT THEY'RE THERE NONETHELESS... PROMISES.
OF WHAT WAS.. AND WHAT CAN BE.
SOMETIME TODAY, HUH, MURDOCK?
THERE, IN THE GENTLE RUSTLE OF FABRIC AGAINST HER SMOOTH SKIN, WARM TO THE TOUCH EVEN FROM HERE-
IN THE WAY HER HAIR SMELLS, SWEET AND HEADY.

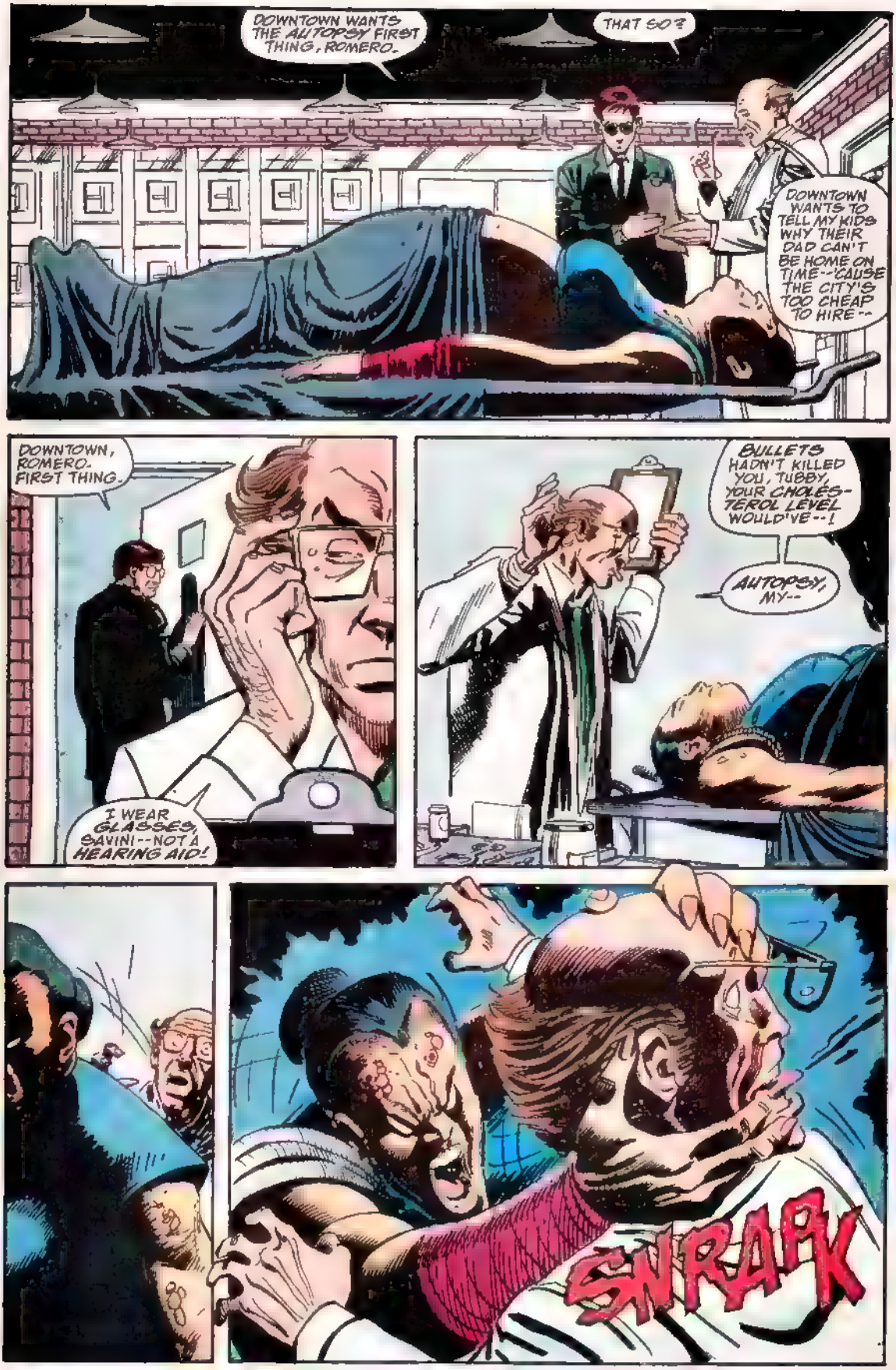

THE RICH TASTE OF HER LIPS ON--
THE TASTE OF--
BLOOD.

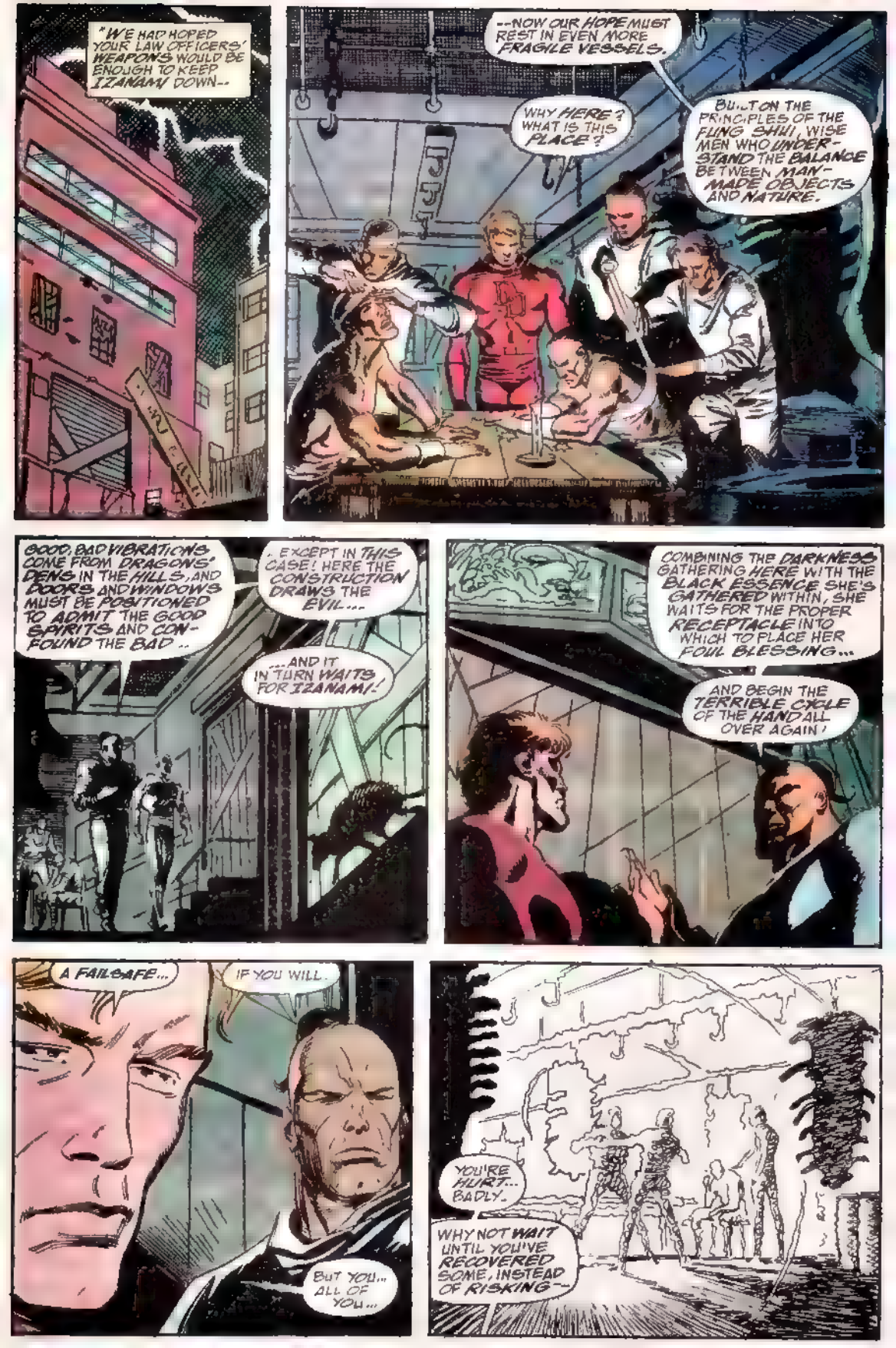
BLOOD.
IT'S NOT OVER, DAREDEVIL -- THE HAND -- AND WE CAN'T FINISH IT ALONE.
STONE?!
STICK. STICK HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR YOU.. FOR WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF...

STICK? HIGH PRAISE? IN A FOUL-MOUTHED SORT OF WAY, MAYBE...
I...

PROMISES--
--RADAR IMAGES OF WHAT CAN BE.

OKAY.
FOR STICK.
PROMISES--
--OWING UP TO WHAT WAS.
LOOKS LIKE YOU BLEW IT, MATT.


DOWNTOWN WANTS THE AUTOPSY FIRST THING, ROMERO.
THAT SO?
DOWNTOWN WANTS TO TELL MY KIDS WHY THEIR DAD CAN'T BE HOME ON TIME--CAUSE THE CITY'S TOO CHEAP TO HIRE--
DOWNTOWN, ROMERO. FIRST THING.
I WEAR GLASSES, SAVINI--NOT A HEARING AID!
BULLETS HADN'T KILLED YOU, TUBBY, YOUR CHOLES-TEROL LEVEL WOULD'VE--!
AUTOPSY, MY--
SNRAK


"WE HAD HOPED YOUR LAW OFFICERS' WEAPONS WOULD BE ENOUGH TO KEEP IZANAMI DOWN--
--NOW OUR HOPE MUST REST IN EVEN MORE FRAGILE VESSELS.
WHY HERE? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
BUILT ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE FUNG SHUI, WISE MEN WHO UNDERSTAND THE BALANCE BETWEEN MAN-MADE OBJECTS AND NATURE.
GOOD, BAD VIBRATIONS COME FROM DRAGONS' DENS IN THE HILLS, AND DOORS AND WINDOWS MUST BE POSITIONED TO ADMIT THE GOOD SPIRITS AND CONFOUND THE BAD..
..EXCEPT IN THIS CASE! HERE THE CONSTRUCTION DRAWS THE EVIL...
...AND IT IN TURN WAITS FOR IZANAMI!
COMBINING THE DARKNESS GATHERING HERE WITH THE BLACK ESSENCE SHE'S GATHERED WITHIN, SHE WAITS FOR THE PROPER RECEPTACLE INTO WHICH TO PLACE HER FOUL BLESSING...
AND BEGIN THE TERRIBLE CYCLE OF THE HAND ALL OVER AGAIN!
A FAILSAFE...
IF YOU WILL.
BUT YOU... ALL OF YOU...
YOU'RE HURT... BADLY.
WHY NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU'VE RECOVERED SOME, INSTEAD OF RISKING--

CONFRONTING THE ENEMY HEAD-ON ASSURES A PURITY OF PURPOSE. TO WAIT IS THE TRUE RISK, THE RISK OF THE PLIGHT WORSENING.
SURELY YOU UNDERSTAND?
I'M LEARNING, STONE.
I AM LEARNING.
STAND BY MY SIDE, SPEAR.
YOU ARE NEW TO OUR ORDER, AND THE HAND'S WAYS ARE MOST TREACHEROUS!
THAT'S WHAT I HEAR!
THRAKK
THE CHOICE IS MADE YOUNG ONE.
..AND THE HAND WELCOMES ONE WITH SUCH PROMISE!
YES...YES--PROMISE! LET'S HURRY THEN--

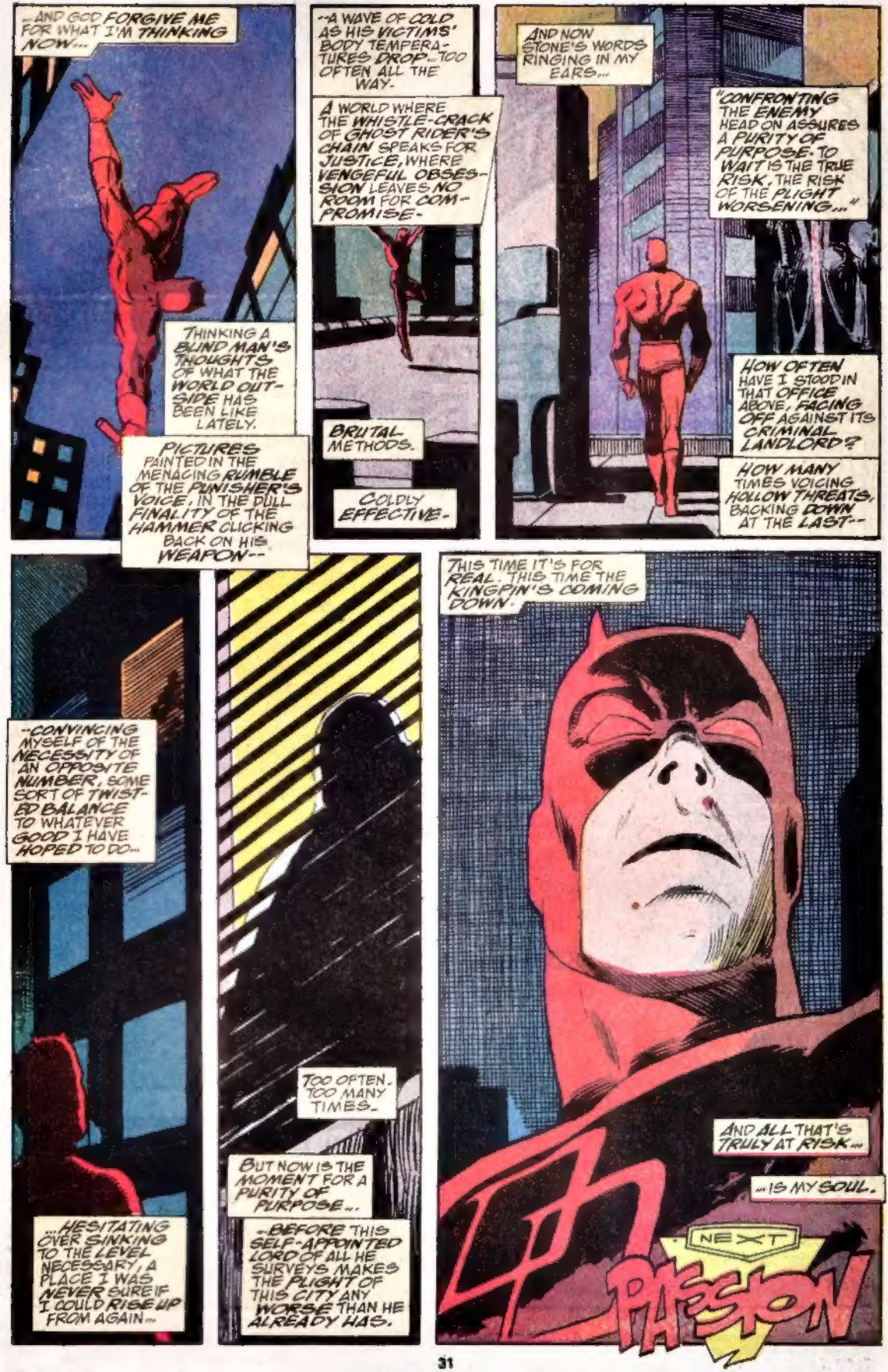
"-- THE REST OF THEM!"
WING, DID YOU--?!
IT SOUNDED LIKE STAR AND--!
HYAAIG
SHE'S NOT--
UNGH!
HRGG
THROOM
DOWN!
I LOSE TRACK OF THE EXACT NUMBER OF BONES I HEAR SNAP LIKE DRY AND WET KINDLING--
BKRATTLE

--BUT I MEAN TO GET THE COUNT AS CLOSE AS I CAN--
--WITH IZANAMI'S HELP, OF COURSE.
THIS ENDS NOW!
GRNAKK
NO, DAREDEVIL... IT IS JUST BEGINNING!
MMM, DO YOU KNOW HOW I'VE WANTED TO FEEL YOU IN MY ARMS?
S-SPEAR-- THAT'S WHY BEFORE-- NO EXCITE-MENT IN HEART-BEAT...
NO, PLENTY EXCITED-- JUST NOT THE WAY YOU THOUGHT!
STONE, STAR, THE OTHERS-- THEY GOT ME STARTED, BUT I SOON FOUND OUT FOR MYSELF REAL POWER!
THAT'S WITH THE HAND!
DON'T YOU SEE? I'M TO BE THE ONE TO GET WHAT IZANAMI'S GOT TO OFFER!
I'M THE--

YOU'RE A SWEET YOUNG THING, SPEAR, BUT THE FUTURE OF THE HAND DEMANDS RIPER FRUIT TO SATE THE BEAST'S HUNGER!
A MORE MATURE MAN HAS MUCH TO OFFER, MMM, DARE-DEVIL?
W-WHAT ARE YOU...
IT'S TO BE YOU WHO WILL RECEIVE MY GIFTS!
STICK SAW YOUR POTENTIAL! HE HOPED HIS TRAINING WOULD STEER YOU CLEAR OF THE BEAST'S PATH. BUT NOW--
G-GET AWAY FROM--
YOU HEARD HIM--GET AWAY!!
IT'S TO BE--ME--ME!!
YOU PROMISED!
SPEAR'S HEARTBEAT IS RACING PLENTY FAST NOW--

—NOT THAT MINE'S ANY SLOUCH.
YAAG!
KRAK
YES, DARE-DEVIL—YOU'LL SERVE THE BEAST VERY WELL!
NOW...COME TO MOMMA!
I TELL MYSELF PART OF ME REACHES FOR THE SPEAR TO GET BACK MY CROSS...
PART OF ME. THE REST—
THE IMPORTANT THING BECOMES THAT I'M HOLDING IT. HEAVY. SMOOTH. DEADLY.
DARE-DEVIL—! DON'T LET HER NEAR YOU! YOU HAVE TO—
ITS ORNATE SHAFT WRITING ITS WAY THROUGH MY GLOVE, ONTO MY PALM AND FINGERTIPS, SENDING A MESSAGE...
STAY CLEAR, IZANAMI! DON'T MAKE—

...I TRY NOT TO LISTEN, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE.
SHE LEAVES ME NO CHOICE.
VALIANT TO THE END, DAREDEVIL! BUT IT IS THE END, YOU KNOW, IT IS--
NO! THE FALLEN ONES, ESCAPING,... LEAVING ME!
COME BACK! COME BACK! WITHOUT YOU I'M NOTHING, WITHOUT YOU I'M--
WOOSH
WITHOUT YOU--
YOU DID...YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR WHAT HAD TO BE...
SHE WASN'T EVEN HUMAN, YOU KNOW.
THAT... THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY EASIER...
GOD FORGIVE ME, I ALMOST WISH IT DID...


...AND GOD FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I'M THINKING NOW...
THINKING A BLIND MAN'S THOUGHTS OF WHAT THE WORLD OUTSIDE HAS BEEN LIKE LATELY.
PICTURES PAINTED IN THE MENACING RUMBLE OF THE PUNISHER'S VOICE, IN THE DULL FINALITY OF THE HAMMER CLICKING BACK ON HIS WEAPON--
--A WAVE OF COLD AS HIS VICTIMS' BODY TEMPERATURES DROP...TOO OFTEN ALL THE WAY.
A WORLD WHERE THE WHISTLE-CRACK OF GHOST RIDER'S CHAIN SPEAKS FOR JUSTICE, WHERE VENGEFUL OBSESSION LEAVES NO ROOM FOR COMPROMISE-
BRUTAL METHODS.
COLDLY EFFECTIVE-
AND NOW STONE'S WORDS RINGING IN MY EARS...
"CONFRONTING THE ENEMY HEAD ON ASSURES A PURITY OF PURPOSE. TO WAIT IS THE TRUE RISK, THE RISK OF THE PLIGHT WORSENING..."
HOW OFTEN HAVE I STOOD IN THAT OFFICE ABOVE, FACING OFF AGAINST ITS CRIMINAL LANDLORD?
HOW MANY TIMES VOICING HOLLOW THREATS, BACKING DOWN AT THE LAST--
-CONVINCING MYSELF OF THE NECESSITY OF AN OPPOSITE NUMBER, SOME SORT OF TWISTED BALANCE TO WHATEVER GOOD I HAVE HOPED TO DO...
...HESITATING OVER SINKING TO THE LEVEL NECESSARY, A PLACE I WAS NEVER SURE IF I COULD RISE UP FROM AGAIN...
TOO OFTEN. TOO MANY TIMES.
BUT NOW IS THE MOMENT FOR A PURITY OF PURPOSE...
-BEFORE THIS SELF-APPOINTED LORD OF ALL HE SURVEYS MAKES THE PLIGHT OF THIS CITY ANY WORSE THAN HE ALREADY HAS.
THIS TIME IT'S FOR REAL. THIS TIME THE KINGPIN'S COMING DOWN.
AND ALL THAT'S TRULY AT RISK...
...IS MY SOUL.
NEXT
PASSION